

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 36 No. 6

June 15, 1967

Whole No. 417

Now They're Collectors' Items

No. 3—Edward Stratemeyer, Kirk Munroe, Wm. Murray Graydon, G. A. Henty, Harry St. George Rathborne, Edwin L. Sabin, Jos. A. Altsheler

By J. Edward Leithead



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 90

OLD SLEUTH LIBRARY

Publisher: George Munro, 17 to 27 Vandewater St., New York, N. Y. Schedule of Issue: Quarterly. Dates: 1885-1905. Issues: 101. Price: 10c each. Pages: 32. Size: 12½x9. Illustrations: Black and White cover, some issues had numerous inside illustrations. Contents: Detective stories about Old Sleuth and other detectives by Halsey Page.

Now They're Collectors' Items

No. 3—Edward Stratemeyer, Kirk Munroe, Wm. Murray Graydon, G. A. Henty, Harry St. George Rathborne, Edwin L. Sabin, Jos. A. Altsheler

By J. Edward Leithead

The Rover Boys at School, The Rover Boys on the Ocean, The Rover Boys in the Jungle, The Rover Boys Out West—these are but a very few of the titles in the famous Rover Boys Series, and if he had never written anything else, Edward Stratemeyer would have a deathless fame in juvenile literature, although he wrote them under one of his many pseudonyms, "Arthur M. Winfield." How many Rover Boys titles appeared between 1899 and 1926 I don't know, but there was another series, companion stories to the first one, the Putnam Hall Series, under the Winfield pen-name.

Signing himself "Clarence Young," Stratemeyer started the Motor Boys Series in 1906. I have here a copy of The Motor Boys Over the Rockies, the 10th title in the series, copyright 1911 by Cupples & Leon, but apparently Stratemeyer wrote only three of the series. In order to understand this I wish to quote from the excellent article, "Edward Stratemeyer" by Roy B. Van Devier, published in two parts, the February and March 1958 issues of Dime Novel Roundup: "In 1906 Stratemeyer founded his Literary Syndicate in New York City and employed many writers of juvenile fiction to elaborate plots which he supplied into book-length stories. Under this plan were produced the 'Motor Boys' and 'Tom Swift' series for boys." And farther on in his article: "Under the nom de plume 'Clarence Young' Stratemeyer was the author of the first three volumes of

'The Motor Boys Series,' 1906."

I recall an illustration in one of the Motor Boys books (don't remember the title) showing the car, with its youthful occupants wearing dusters, stalled on the open prairie with war-bonneted Indians riding round in a narrowing circle. An obvious incongruity; too late in point of time for such an Indian attack or too early for the automobile on the Western scene. Now, if the car was swapped for an emigrant train or an Army baggage train or the chuck and hoodlum wagons of a cow outfit coming up the Chisholm Trail . . . !

The Jack Ranger Series is listed in this copy of The Motor Boys Over the Rockies—Jack Ranger's School-days, Jack Ranger's Western Trip, Jack Ranger's School Victories, Jack Ranger's Ocean Cruise, Jack Ranger's Gun Club—and the author is given as Clarence Young. Whether any were written by Stratemeyer or only members of his Syndicate I am unable to say.

The Tom Swift Series, signed "Victor Appleton" and published by Grosset & Dunlap, was extremely popular, especially among boys who liked Frank Reade and Jack Wright stories and those by Jules Verne. A blurb for this series read: "Every boy possesses some form of inventive genius. Tom Swift is a bright, ingenious boy and his inventions and adventures make the most interesting kind of reading." Some of the titles were Tom Swift and His Motorcycle, Tom Swift and His Motor Boat, Tom

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP, Vol. 36, No. 6, Whole No. 417, June 15, 1967
Published monthly at 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kansas. Edited by Edward T. LeBlanc, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass. Second class postage paid at Lawrence, Kansas. Assistant Editor, Ralph F. Cummings, 161 Pleasant St., South Grafton, Mass. Subscription \$3.00 per year. Ad Rates—9c per word, \$1.50 per column inch; \$3.25 per quarter page, \$4.50 per half page and \$7.50 per page. Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.

Swift and His Airship, Tom Swift and His Electric Rifle, Tom Swift and His Undersea Search.

I understand that the Stratemeyer Syndicate lasted well into the 1920's so that another book I have here, copyright 1926 by Grosset & Dunlap, was probably one of a series—The X Bar X Boys Books, signed "James Cody Ferris"—produced by the Syndicate. The X Bar X Boys on the Ranch is the opening title, then the book I have, The X Bar X Boys in Thunder Canyon (ill. by Walter S. Rogers), The X Bar X Boys on Whirlpool River, The X Bar X Boys on Big Bison Trail, The X Bar X Boys at the Round-up. If this series WAS originally, a Syndicate production (Edward Stratemeyer died in 1930), 8 new titles were added up to 1934, Grosset & Dunlap still the publishers. A later copy I have here is The X Bar X Boys Branding the Wild Herd (ill. by J. Clemens Gretta). A blurb states, in part, "The Manly boys, Roy and Teddy, are the sons of an old ranchman, the owner of many thousands of heads of cattle. The lads know how to ride, how to shoot and how to take care of themselves under any and all circumstances."

One of Stratemeyer's best-known series was the Dave Porter Series—Dave Porter at Oak Hall, Dave Porter in the South Seas, Dave Porter's Return to School; there were more of them, but I haven't the titles, all Lee & Shepard publications. Another was The Old Glory Series—Under Dewey at Manila, A Young Volunteer in Cuba, Fighting in Cuban Waters, Under Otis in the Philippines, The Campaign of the Jungle, Under McArthur in Luzon. Highly attractive volumes published by Lee & Shepard, these Spanish-American War stories were read avidly by my brother and myself. But even more I liked Stratemeyer's Colonial Series—With Washington in the West, Marching on Niagara, At the Fall of Montreal, On the Trail of Pontiac, The Fort in the Wilderness, Trail and Trading Post.

This handsome set of six (Lee & Shepard) had five volumes illustrated by A. B. Shute, the sixth by J. W. Kennedy. All three series above were signed Edward Stratemeyer.

I liked, too, his Frontier Series (The Mershon Co., afterward reprinted by Grosset & Dunlap and combined with some other titles in The Flag and Frontier Series)—Pioneer Boys of the Gold Fields, Pioneer Boys of the Great Northwest, With Boone on the Frontier, With Custer in the Black Hills, all published under the nom. "Captain Ralph Bonehill." Another series I liked much was The Mexican War Series—For the Liberty of Texas, With Taylor on the Rio Grande, Under Scott in Mexico. These were signed Captain Ralph Bonehill when issued under the Dana Estes & Co. imprint, but there was another and handsomer edition by Lee & Shepard signed Edward Stratemeyer. Defending His Flag, or, A Boy in Blue and a Boy in Gray was a handsome, well illustrated volume from the Lee & Shepard publishing house. These publishers put out a really fine looking book, and although I don't recall the series title I'm almost certain these stories of the Russo-Japanese War, etc., had the Lee & Shepard imprint—On to Peking, Under the Mikado's Flag, At the Fall of Port Arthur, With Togo for Japan, Between Boer and Briton.

Stratemeyer's wide range of subjects was bound to reach all young readers, no matter what their taste in reading. Take a look at these titles, under the Bonehill and Winfield pseudonyms, the publishers The Mershon Co., Grosset & Dunlap or David McKay: Neka, the Boy Conjuror, Tour of the Zero Club, The Young Bandmaster, Off for Hawaii, A Sailor Boy With Dewey, When Santiago Fell, Boys of the Fort, Bob, the Photographer, Lost in the Land of Ice, Mark Dale's Stage Venture, The Young Bank Clerk, The Young Bridge Tender. David McKay published at least two Stratemeyer books under the nom. "Lieutenant Lionel Louns-

berry," which was also used by Col. Prentiss Ingraham for his Kit Carey books. The Stratemeyer titles certainly didn't sound like anything Ingraham had written—Tom Truxton's Schooldays and Tom Truxton's Ocean Trip.

For a fine biographical sketch of Edward Stratemeyer and his works, including his pseudonyms and publication dates of many of his books, I strongly suggest that you look up Roy Van Devier's two-part article already mentioned.

Kirk Munroe, in his White Conquerors Series (Scribners) penned a top-notch historical series: With Crockett and Bowie, or, Fighting for the Lone Star Flag, Through Swamp and Glade, A Tale of the Seminole War, At War With Pontiac, or, The Totem of the Bear, A Tale of Redcoat and Redskin, The White Conquerors, A Tale of Toltec and Aztec (about the conquest of Mexico by Cortez). He also wrote The Flamingo Feather, and other titles of which I have no record. It strikes me that anyone who was a boy when I was and had access to the juvenile literature of that time, hadn't much excuse if he wasn't pretty well grounded in the early history of America. Good writers were many and constantly producing well written books with accurate historical settings. And they didn't write down to the young reader in those days.

Most dime novel collectors know the paperback series of Revolutionary War tales brought out by Street & Smith, called The Boys of Liberty Library and priced at ten cents. There were about 28 to the set in the S. & S. paperbacks, but David McKay published 35 different titles that I know of, and perhaps more, in a cloth-bound edition with a cover design of a young Continental soldier taken from the dime edition, all under the series title Boys of Liberty Library and selling for 50 cents. Besides stories of the American Revolution there were tales of the French and Indian War and the War of 1812, altogether a

very attractive set, with frontispiece in each by Charles L. Wrenn or Robert Emmet Owen or Edward Johnson, and written by an excellent group of authors. Marion and His Men, by John De Morgan, The Young Ambassador, or, Washington's First Triumph, by John De Morgan, The Tory Plot, or, Saving Washington's Life, by T. C. Harbaugh, Under Greene's Banner, by T. C. Harbaugh, The Quaker Spy, by Lieutenant Lounsberry, Captain of the Minute Men, by Harrie Irving Hancock, The Land Hero of 1812, or, Campaigning With General Jackson, by C. C. Hotchkiss, The Cruise of the Essex, by Frank Sheridan (De Morgan), "Old Put," the Patriot, by Frederick A. Ober, Campaigning With Braddock, by William Murray Graydon. The McKay edition sometimes bore the copyright of Street & Smith, sometimes of Norman L. Munro, so all were originally dime novels or story-paper serials. About 9 of them by De Morgan (counting one under his Frank Sheridan nom.), one by "Lounsberry" and one by Harbaugh were issued in Brave and Bold Weekly.

One of the above authors, William Murray Graydon, an Englishman, I believe, was more a writer of hard-cover books than paperbacks (at least most of them seemed to end up in the cloth-bound class), though quite a few appeared in the Medal Library before David McKay brought out good-looking hardbounds of The Butcher of Cawnpore, The Camp in the Snow, Campaigning With Braddock, or, Fighting Allied Foes (a different edition from McKay's Boys of Liberty Library), The Cryptogram, From Lake to Wilderness, In Barracks and Wigwam, or, The Young Recruit of the Seventh Cavalry, In Fort and Prison, or, The Mystery of Larry Redmayne, Jungles and Traitors, The Rajah's Fortress, The White King of Africa, or, The Mystery of the Ancient Fort, With Boer and Britisher.

As will be noted from the titles (and this isn't all of them), Graydon wrote more stories of the G. A. Hen-

ty type than those with an American setting. Henty, in fact, did several with the full flavor of Colonial America and the French and Indian War—Redskin and Colonist, and With Wolfe in Canada—the American Revolution and the War Between the States—True to the Old Flag, and With Lee in Virginia—the American West—Redskin and Cowboy, Captain Bayley's Heir, and In the Heart of the Rockies.

I will make no further attempt to enlarge on the works of an author who was as popular with American boy readers as with English boys, for already the best article on G. A. Henty I've ever seen has been published, a thorough and careful job of research, leaving, really, nothing to be added. The first part of this article appeared in Dime Novel Roundup for December 1948, entitled "George Alfred Henty" by Stanley A. Pachon in collaboration with William M. Burns, James E. Knott and W. B. Poage. The second part, "The Works of George Alfred Henty" by Stanley A. Pachon, was published in the issue immediately following, dated January 1949. This is a fine listing of all that Henty wrote and the subject matter, with the various editions and publishers and dates of publication. W. B. Poage contributed many pieces to Dime Novel Roundup entitled "Henty Hints," at least six of them and maybe more, the first one, about the book, Redskin and Colonist, appearing in DNR for February 1949.

Harry St. George Rathborne, who dropped his first name in writing dime novels for Street & Smith and other publishers, and also used numerous pen-names ("Ned Taylor," for instance, in writing a lot of the early Rough Rider Weekly), authored The Ranch and Range Series—Sunset Ranch, Chums of the Prairie, The Young Range Riders—and The Camp and Canoe Series—Canoe and Campfire, Paddling Under Palmettos, Rival Canoe Boys—which appeared in a Street & Smith cloth-bound edition, at \$1.00, and were reprinted by David

McKay in hard-covers at 75 cents, along with a couple of other titles, The Gulf Cruisers and Shifting Winds. These were all under his own name.

Another prolific writer of boys' books, particularly with historical characters and backgrounds, was Edwin L. Sabin. He wrote most of an excellent series published by J. B. Lippincott Co. (handsome books with fine illustrations, frontispiece in color, many of them by Charles H. Stephens, often with portrait and map besides) called the American Trail Blazers Series, "The Story Grips and the History Sticks." No finer books for boys (or older readers, for that matter) have ever been printed. Those by Sabin were: Gold Seekers of '49, Buffalo Bill and the Overland Trail, On the Plains With Custer, With Carson and Fremont, With Sam Houston in Texas, Lost With Lieutenant Pike, General Crook and the Fighting Apaches, Opening the West With Lewis and Clark, With George Washington Into the Wilderness, In the Ranks of Old Hickory, Into Mexico With General Scott. Others in this series not by Sabin were Captain John Smith and Daniel Boone, Backwoodsman, both by C. H. Forbes-Lindsay, and David Crockett, Scout, by Charles Fletcher Allen. Another book by Sabin, "Old" Jim Bridger on the Moccasin Trail, published by Thomas Y. Crowell Co., would have been a fine volume to include in the American Trail Blazers Series. These books were quite popular at one time, went into several editions. The Lippincott Co. was considering adding a life of Col. Theodore Roosevelt to this series, dwelling no doubt on his adventures as a cattle rancher in Dakota Territory and as the organizer and leader of the famous cowboy cavalry, the Rough Riders, in the Spanish-American War, but the book never was published as far as I know.

The Crowell Co. also published the Great West Series by Sabin—The Great Pike's Peak Rush, On the Overland Stage, Opening the Iron Trail (in the second volume Wild Bill Hick-

ok appears as stage driver, his occupation at one time; in the third volume Major Frank North and his Pawnee Indian Battalion help to protect the Union Pacific railroad builders from Sioux and Cheyenne attack); The Range and Trail Series—Bar B Boys, Range and Trail, Old Four-toes, Treasure Mountain, Scarface Ranch. These are unusually well told stories of the Old West from cattle raising to homesteading, Indians in war paint and some not in war paint, the chief characters being two young cowpunchers, Phil Macowan and Chet Simms, and a cowgirl, Cherry. Another Crowell publication was *Wild Men of the Wild West*, a book of short biographies of Western characters like Hugh Glass, the mountain man famed for living through a hand-to-hand encounter with a grizzly, a knife his only weapon.

Boys' Book of Indian Warriors and Heroic Indian Women (told from the viewpoint of the red man), Boys' Book of Frontier Fighters and Boys' Book of Border Battles were three volumes of short Indian, pioneer, scout and soldier-and-Indian historical tales by Sabin, published by George W. Jacobs & Co., very attractive cloth-bound books and well illustrated.

Joseph A. Altsheler was a famous writer of boys' books, first published by D. Appleton & Co., later bearing the imprint D. Appleton-Century Co. The French and Indian War Series was in 6 volumes—The Hunters of the Hills, The Rulers of the Lakes, The Lords of the Wild, The Shadow of the North, The Masters of the Peaks, The Sun of Quebec. A very handy roster of characters running through the series, many of them figures out of history, appeared in each volume. I think all but one of these volumes had illustrations (and dust wrappers) by Charles L. Wrenn, former Street & Smith staff artist. That is, the earlier editions were fully illustrated, later editions were reduced to a frontispiece or lacked pictures altogether.

Then there was The Young Trailers Series, 8 volumes—The Young Trailers, The Forest Runners, The Keepers of the Trail, The Eyes of the Woods, The Free Rangers, The Riflemen of the Ohio, The Scouts of the Valley, The Border Watch. These really excellent pioneer and Indian tales relate the adventures of Henry Ware and Paul Cotter, together with three older frontiersmen, on the Kentucky border and all along the frontier.

Descendants of Ware and Cotter take part in the Civil War in a later series by Altsheler, probably the longest and certainly one of the best series for boys on the War Between the States ever written, covering it from the first Bull Run to Appomattox, with a list of principal fictional characters, a separate list of historical characters and one of the famous battles which take place in the stories, in each volume. The great conflict is viewed from both sides, Harry Kenton fighting for the South, and his cousin, Dick Mason, fighting for the North. There are 8 volumes in The Civil War Series—The Guns of Bull Run, The Guns of Shiloh, The Scouts of Stonewall, The Sword of Antietam, The Star of Gettysburg, The Rock of Chickamauga, The Shades of the Wilderness, The Tree of Appomattox. Charles L. Wrenn also illustrated early editions of this series.

The Texas Series by Altsheler—The Texan Star, The Texan Scouts, The Texan Triumph—deal with the Lone Star State's beginning and battle for freedom, just about the most complete and exciting account of those stirring historic events ever penned for boys. Naturally, you meet Sam Houston, Col. Jim Bowie, Davy Crockett and Deaf Smith, to name a few. The Great West Series was two volumes, both illustrated by Wrenn—The Lost Hunters, The Great Sioux Trail; and there were separate volumes, The Horsemen of the Plains, A Story of the Great Cheyenne War (the Beecher's Island fight is featured and Chas. Livingston Bull illustrated it), Apache Gold, The Quest

of the Four, The Last of the Chiefs. Altscheler wrote still another series for boys, about the First World War and called The World War Series—The Guns of Europe, The Forest of Swords, The Hosts of the Air. All his many juvenile books are of such uniform excellence, show such painstaking research, it is surprising that he found time also to write several novels for adults, on subjects closest to his heart, the American frontier and the Civil War. But I'm of the opinion that his best work was for the boys.

The End

NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings

Charles Duprez, 228 Larch Lane, Smithtown, N. Y. 11787, suffered a stroke on April 17th and died the 22nd at the age of 78 years. Mr. Duprez started his photographic work over 60 years ago, when he photographed Theodore Roosevelt and displayed it at the New York World's Fair. After that, his career was made and he had something of a scoop in 1906 when he was sent to Hoboken, N. J. to get a shot of camera-shy financier J. P. Morgan returning from a trip abroad. He was also in the New York to Paris race "Around the World" in 1908.

Later on, he had his own free lance photography business. In 1919 Mr. Duprez joined the motion picture industry in the making of stills for display and publicity purposes. We are all going to miss him, especially those who knew him personally. More in next months issue, as I don't have time to get it to the printer in time for the coming issue.

Remember Talbot C. Hatch, Woodland Point, Mound, Minn.? He was H. H. Bro. #99 in December 1950. He wrote up a fine article for the Gould Battery News in Feb. 1944: "Crack! Crack! Crack! Three More Redskins Bit the Dust!" He had 4 pafes, and well illustrated, with 12 illustrations of various 5c novels, such as Tip Top, Buffalo Bill Stories, Nick Carter,

Jesse James Stories, Beadles Dime, Old Cap Collier, Young Sleuth, Secret Service, Young Klondike, Work & Win, Liberty Boys of '76 and Wide Awake Library. Now that was a very nice selection of novel illustrations to have, don't you think! Talbot also wrote stories for the Ellery Queen Mystery Magazines, one of them I happen to have is "Guess Who?" in the Sept. 1949 issue. Talbot died not too long afterwards.

Julius R. Chenu, 16 Farragut Rd., Merrick, L. I., N. Y. 11566, was up to see me and myself, Reckless, of South Grafton on Saturday, April 29th. He is the 143rd member I've met personally since the Brotherhood was started, way back in 1925. Sure's a long time. I was surprised, yes and no, when I met Julius, Jack for short. Mae Maurice Owen told me what to expect, as Moe is a very dear friend of his (and as Moe had to work Saturday morning, he came up here in the afternoon). Julius is 6 foot 6 and used to be a great football player. He must weigh about 275 pounds—but we can't all be little fellows, you know.

Jack looked over all my hard covers, and we did some trading (Jack is a hard cover boys book collector, and loves it too). After that, we went up to Worcester, and visited members up there, Michael Grinet H. H. Bro. #252, where he was able to get some of his wants as Mike runs the Odd Book Store at 36 Southbridge St. Then we also went to the Salvation Army, Volunteer and Holy Name but didn't find anything worth while, then to the Colonial Book and Stamp Store, where he found a few more books, then we went up to Clyde Wakefield's at 11 Lagrange St., H. H. Bro. #39, then back home here about 1:30 p.m. when Moe Owen of Norwick, Conn. came in and we had quite an afternoon of it, trading for each other's wants, and myself getting stuff I will try and sell. Along in the afternoon Jack and Moe left for Springfield, Mass., 60 miles from here, got a few books out there, then headed for home.

More Gilbert Patten In Clothbound Editions

By Harry K. Hudson

I thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Leithead's recent Roundup article on Patten clothbound editions. I would like to add a few bits and pieces of information.

The first clothbound edition of Frank Merriwell was in Street & Smith's Boys Own Library. This series consisted of 135 volumes, by such authors as Capt. Ralph Bonehill, Edward S. Ellis, Horatio Alger, Jr., William Murray Graydon, St. George Rathborne and many others.

Patten was represented by "The Boy Boomers," "The Boy Cattle King," "The Boys From the West," "Don Kirk's Mine," "Jud and Joe" and the first six Frank Merriwell titles. (F. M.'s Schooldays, Chums, Foes, Trip West, Down South and Bravery).

Apparently Street & Smith sold the rights to this series to David McKay, who re-issued it. The initial McKay publication of the series was 140 volumes. "The Golden Rock" (Ellis), "The Land of Mystery" (Ellis), and "With Boer and Britisher" (Graydon) were dropped, while added were "The Rockspur Nine," "The Rockspur Eleven," "The Rockspur Rivals" (Patten), "Sunset Ranch," "Chums of the Prairie," (Rathborne), "Out With Commodore Decatur" (Lounsberry), and "Castaway in the Jungle" (St. Clair).

Subsequent printings added other Merriwell titles to a total of 24. "The Deadwood Trail," by Patten, originally published by Appleton was also added. (This last per a McKay listing—I have never actually seen a McKay copy.)

Eventually McKay abandoned The Boys Own Library as a catch all, and continued to issue the more popular constituents of the series under their individual names. The Famous Frank Merriwell Stories reach a total of 28 titles. The earlier titles followed the sequence of the paper back editions, but the later titles skipped around. The titles were:

1. Frank Merriwell's Schooldays
2. Frank Merriwell's Chums
3. Frank Merriwell's Foes
4. Frank Merriwell's Trip West
5. Frank Merriwell Down South
6. Frank Merriwell's Bravery
7. Frank Merriwell's Races
8. Frank Merriwell's Hunting Tour
9. Frank Merriwell at Yale
10. Frank Merriwell's Sports Afield
11. Frank Merriwell's Courage
12. Frank Merriwell's Daring
13. Frank Merriwell's Skill
14. Frank Merriwell's Champions
15. Frank Merriwell's Return to Yale
16. Frank Merriwell's Secret
17. Frank Merriwell's Loyalty
18. Frank Merriwell's Reward
19. Frank Merriwell's Faith
20. Frank Merriwell's Victories
21. Frank Merriwell's Power
22. Frank Merriwell's Set Back
23. Frank Merriwell's False Friend
24. Frank Merriwell's Brother
25. Frank Merriwell in Camp
26. Frank Merriwell's Vacation
27. Frank Merriwell's Cruise
28. Frank Merriwell's Lads

The Street & Smith and McKay Merriwell stories were under the Burt L. Standish pseudonym. The others carried the by-line of Gilbert Patten.

Other clothbound books published under Patten's own name were: The Clif Stirling Series published by McKay. 5 volumes.

Clif Stirling, Captain of the Nine

Clif Stirling Behind the Line

Clif Stirling, Stroke of the Crew

Clif Stirling, Freshman at Stormbridge

Clif Stirling, Sophomore at Stormbridge

College Life Series, published by Barse & Hopkins. 6 volumes.

Boltwood of Yale

The College Rebel

On College Battlefields

The Call of the Varsity

Sons of Old Eli

Ben Oakman, Stroke

Individually published were "Bill

Bruce of Harvard" published by Dodd Meade and "Mr. Frank Merriwell" published by Alliance.

Published under the pseudonym of Burt L. Standish were the following series:

THE BIG LEAGUE SERIES published by Barse & Hopkins. 16 volumes.

1. Lefty o' the Bush
2. Lefty o' the Big League
3. Lefty o' the Blue Stockings
4. Lefty o' the Training Camp
5. Brick King, Backstop
6. The Making of a Big Leaguer
7. Courtney of the Center Garden
8. Covering the Look-in Corner
9. Lefty Locke, Pitcher-Manager
10. Guarding the Keystone Sack
11. The Man on First
12. Lego Lamp, Southpaw
13. The Grip of the Game
14. Lefty Locke, Owner
15. Lefty Locke Wins Out
16. Crossed Signals

Published under the pseudonym of Gordon Braddock, Hurst and then Burt published the Rex Kingdon Series, 5 volumes.

Rex Kingdon of Ridgewood High
 Rex Kingdon in the North Woods
 Rex Kingdon at Walcott Hall
 Rex Kingdon Behind the Bat
 Rex Kingdon on Storm Island

A sixth title, Rex Kingdon and His Chums is mentioned in the fifth volume, but I can find no evidence that this one was ever published.

Under the pseudonym Morgan Scott, both Hurst and Burt published THE OAKDALE SERIES. 6 volumes.
 Ben Stone at Oakdale
 Boys of Oakdale Academy
 Rival Pitchers of Oakdale
 Oakdale Boys in Camp
 The Great Oakdale Mystery
 New Boys at Oakdale

This, I believe, is a complete listing of Patten's books in clothbound editions, with two possible exceptions.

The first exception is "Where Sweet Winds Blow." I have come across various references to this title which is supposed to be a book of verse, but I have never been able to get any

specific information.

The second exception is the off beat little group which I dare say is unknown to many Patten fans. Around 1910-1912 a W. H. Baker & Co., of Boston published 4 titles by Patten: "Clover Farm," "In Double Peril," "Nan, the Mascotte" and "Wedding Bells." I believe they were clothbound but they could have been paperbacks.

Editorial Note

One other Patten title has come to my attention: "By Right of Merit. The Romance of a Laboring Man's Rise in Life." This was published under his own name as a serial in the Boston Globe beginning March 3, 1894 and ending March 23, 1894. Does anyone know of a bound edition?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. LeBlanc: I enjoyed the article on Erastus Beadle. When Beadle went west he went to Omaha, Nebraska. He kept a diary which was published by The New York Public Library about 1923. The title was, I believe, "To Nebraska in 1857."—W. R. Johnson, Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Mr. LeBlanc: I have a feeling that the reason the Merriwell books still have an appeal to the readers of my generation is that they do express ideals that are worth striving toward. Written rapidly, and always under pressure of deadlines, they are no marvels of literary style. Many today call them "corny," as they are by modern standards. But they have an abiding worth.

A few years ago, J. B. Priestly in his great book analyzing the impact of literature on our Western civilization said something like this in his final, summarizing chapter: Most of our modern writers have no faith, nothing to tie to; consequently what they produce has only a fleeting impact. It's something to think about.—W. B. Ragsdale, Washington, D. C.

Frank Schott of Milwaukee, Wisc., still collects Buffalo Bill Stories and James Boys Weeklies, as well as old guns and pistols of the days gone by.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

270. Charles Duprez, Jr., 223 Larch Lane, Smithtown, N. Y. 11787 (new mem)
 56. James F. Stroecker, 4559 Oakland Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63110 (corrected)
 101. Charles Rothstein, 9 Greenway Ct., Apt. 1 Brookline, Mass. 02146 (new address)

FOR SALE

New Tip Top Weeklies and New Buffalo Bill Weekly, 55c each, and many others reasonably priced such as Work and Win, Pluck and Luck.

Eli A. Messier

Box 1122, Woonsocket, R. I. 02805

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FREE

I wish to donate to a LIBRARY a complete set of 245 volumes of the famous Merriwell novels which were read by millions of boys from 1896 to 1936.

Charles Bragin

Woodbridge, Conn. 06525

Back numbers Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup, Nos. 1 to 237, some reprints, 12 for \$1.00 or all for \$21. Sent postpaid. You also get Dime Novel Catalogue, Birthday No. 2, indexes, #1 Pioneer and Scouts of the West.

Can you beat it?

Ralph F. Cummings

161 Pleasant St.

So. Grafton, Mass. 01560

WANTED

Good News Vol. 1, 3 and 15

Army and Navy Weekly, Vols. 1 and 2

Golden Argosy—Argosy, Vols. 3, 4 and 6

Nick Carter Weekly, #8

Diamond Dick, Jr., #99

New York Weekly, February and March 1882

Student & Schoolmate, August 1870

Munsey Magazine, March 1892

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